

FURIOUS FOLLY

Art, war and insanity on a grand scale

Created by Mark Anderson

Co-commissioned by the Town of Poperinge and 14-18 NOW

Produced by Corn Exchange Newbury and OCM

Built at 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space

“While the thunder of the batteries rumbled in the distance....We searched for an elementary art that would, we thought, save mankind from the furious folly of these times.”

Hans Arp founder of the Dadaist movement

Furious Folly takes place as night falls, in a no-mans land on the battlefield between the two lines. Disorientated, the audience find themselves immersed within an open-air collage of sound, light, pyrotechnics and performance.

Mark Anderson, creator of multi-media and site specific performance, leads a team of artists who draw on the anti-war spirit of the early 20th Century Dadaist movement. Railing against the futility of the Great War and the madness of the battlefield, Furious Folly challenges the inhumanity and senselessness of conflicts past and present.

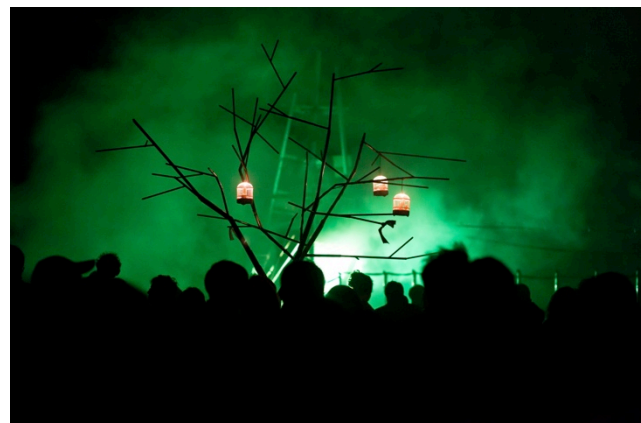


“Anderson has spent his professional career creating audio visual alchemy that uses light, heat, vibrations, electricity, oscillating chemicals and paraphernalia to dazzle our eyes and startle our imaginations.” Richard Wilson

Furious Folly is a large-scale outdoor production for up to 2000 people per night that takes place over 40 minutes on a greenfield site, chosen to represent an open battlefield landscape. Large parks with low ambient sound and light conditions provide an ideal setting. It uses live musicians and performers alongside mechanical instrumentation and kinetic sculptural instruments including the gongs, bells and rattles traditionally used to sound the gas alarm, repurposing them to create a haunting and affecting tone poem and dramatic performance.

Furious Folly was originally commissioned by the Town of Poperinge in Flanders to mark the anniversary of the first use of poison gas and was subsequently re-commissioned by the 14-18Now UK centenary programme, creating additional elements including text by Tim Etchells of Forced Entertainment.

The production features an international team from England, Wales, Ireland, Australia, Switzerland and France led by artist Mark Anderson. A close collaborator with artists including Richard Wilson, Anne Bean and Bow Gamelan, Mark is also known as the lead artist of Power Plant, an immersive sound and light work that has sold 100,000 tickets worldwide as part of the programme of international festivals including Sydney Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Liverpool European City of Culture and 10 Days on the Island in Tasmania. Power Plant was also a major hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival where it sold 7000 tickets at the Royal Botanic Gardens



“Furious Folly is inspired by the Dadaists, and the writers, poets, philosophers, radicals and ordinary people who rejected the propaganda and jingoism peddled by leaders, politicians, big business and the privileged elite of countries and empires as they squabbled for power with their usual contempt for the lives of ordinary people and the destruction wrought in the process.” Mark Anderson

PRESS

Lyn Gardner's "Top Tickets", The Guardian: June & July 2016

Jonathan Jones's Five of the Best Exhibitions (at No.1), The Guardian

"Mark Anderson's audiovisual spectacle Furious Folly remembers the first world war through the shattered lens of dada and is a corrective to some of the more complacent memorial artworks this horrific conflict has recently inspired."

BBC Radio 4, Front Row <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07fdxsz>

"The imagery is harsh and hard-hitting. The senses are overwhelmed with the sounds, light and pyrotechnics that hit the emotions squarely. One cannot help but be moved by the whole event, an unusual, hard-hitting and sobering experience." **The Reviews Hub**

"A powerful and sometimes discomfiting show" **Darlington and Stockton Times**

@brumpic An amazing and touching evening @1418NOW in Sutton Park #FuriousFolly

"it made its powerful point – turning the tables and leaving us unsettled, edgy and bewildered – just like war itself" **Oxford Times**

"powerful, engrossing, thought-provoking" **Reviews Gate**

AUDIENCE RESPONSES

@hedleyswain **Powerful evocation of WW1 horrors #furiousfolly**

@chrisotley Furious Folly at @artsfestoxford **Incredibly immersive, powerful and emotional. Make every effort...**

@JennyDuffin **Haunting and truly immersive**

@netty_french **Searing, epic and brutal. Inspired by WW1 but scarily resonant with #Chilcot**

@PialiDG **#FuriousFolly will stay with me a long time.**

@Craig74 **An amazing thought provoking event. Have never felt so immersed & captivated in a show b4**

@malik_mark **Furious Folly was incredible. Immersive. Disorienting. Moving.**

@Mike_J_Adele **#furiousfolly was amazing, immersive, thought provoking, harrowing and amazingly well produced.**

"Extremely thought provoking and affecting." Audience member

"a total assault of the senses" audience member

"Hauntingly beautiful - a unique and absorbing performance." audience member

"Brilliant creative, tense, exciting, scary, surprising, sobering, inspirational - great to be put within the arena of action - Thank you!!" audience member

"Wild and insanely beautiful performance! Congratulations!!!" Audience member

DIGITAL CONTENT

Documentary (short version) https://youtu.be/sv8_MAgbXF8

Documentary video <https://vimeo.com/164885780>

Audio mix by Graeme Leak <https://soundcloud.com/ocm-events/furious-folly-by-mark-anderson>

Trailer (short version) <https://vimeo.com/138301771>

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/138300233>

Longer show video <https://vimeo.com/138300483>

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

<https://www.1418now.org.uk/commissions/furious-folly/furious-folly-heritage/>

PART 1: Dadaism

PART 2: Le Déserteur ('The Deserter')

PART 3: Conscientious Objectors

PART 4: Gas Gong

PERFORMANCES TO DATE

April 2015

Life Behind The Lines
Poperinge, Belgium

June 2016

Oxford
In association with Oxford Playhouse and Magdalen College School / Oxford Festival of the Arts

July 2016

Birmingham
In association with Birmingham Hippodrome

August 2016

Stockton
In association with Stockton International Riverside Festival



Oxford
Contemporary
Music



Supported using public funding by
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